

Appl. No.: 09/660,948

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Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 – 16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A biocompatible cobalt-base alloy comprising chromium and molybdenum, said alloy being essentially free of carbide, nitride, and sigma second phase particles, wherein said alloy has a yield strength greater than about 120 Ksi and a grain size finer than about ASTM 10.

18. (Original) The biocompatible cobalt-base alloy of Claim 17 said alloy being essentially free of any second phase particles.

19. (Original) The biocompatible cobalt-base alloy of Claim 17 wherein said alloy is a forged alloy.

20. (Original) The biocompatible metal alloy of Claim 19, wherein said alloy has a hardness greater than about 40 Rc.

Claims 21 – 34 (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) The biocompatible metal alloy of Claim 17, wherein said alloy consists essentially of:

from about 26 to about 28 weight percent chromium;

from about 5 to 6 weight percent molybdenum;

up to about 1 weight percent manganese;

up to about 1 weight percent nickel;

up to about 0.75 weight percent iron;

up to about 0.07 weight percent carbon;

nitrogen in an amount up to about 0.25 weight percent;

less than about 0.10% Si;

less than about 0.02% Ti;

the remainder of the alloy being cobalt and impurities.

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36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) A biocompatible cobalt-base alloy of Claim 17 wherein said alloy has a ratio of (weight percent Cr + $\frac{1}{2}$ weight percent Mo) / weight percent Co in the range of below about 0.450.